(d) The question of violation of ban by the fishing traders and exporters does not arise as the ban referred to in answer to part (b) above applies to fishing only.

Poaching of Animals

2593. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent seizure in Madras of animal skins, furs, bones etc. is indicative of large scale poaching, inspite of stringent laws; and

(b) the number of cases of poaching reported during tile last three years. State-wise?

THE MINISTER Of STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) it is not a fact that poaching of wild animals is continuing in a large scale, although there is some poaching of wild animals in the country. The recent seizure of wildlife products in Madras is due to greater vigilance and enforcement activity.

(b) The report is being called from the States and will be laid on the Table of the House on receipt from them.

ग्रामीण लोगों को वन भूमि का आवंटन

2594. **श्री जनार्दन यादव:** क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों के लोगों को वन-भूमि आवंटित की है ताकि वे फलदार वृक्ष लगाकर स्व-रोजगार प्राप्त कर सकें;

(ख) यदि हां, तो वर्ष 1994-95 के दौरान राज्य-वार तथा संघ राज्य क्षेत्र-वार आवंटित भूमि का ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) क्या सरकार वर्ष 1996 के दौरान ग्रामीण लोगों को स्व-रोजगार के अवसर प्रदान करने हेतु और अधिक वन-भूमि आवंटित करने का विचार रखती है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में राज्य-वार एवं संघ राज्य क्षेत्र-वार ब्यौरा क्या है और यदि नहीं तो इसके क्या कारण है?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (कैप्टन जय नारायण प्रसाद निषाद): (क) जी, नहीं।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

(ग) जी, नहीं।

(घ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता। स्वरोजगार के लिए ग्रामीण लोगों के लिए वन भूमि का आवंटन वन (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1980 के अन्तर्गत अनुज्ञेय नहीं है। राष्ट्रीय वन नीति का मुख्य उद्देश्य पारिस्थितिकीय सन्तुलन बनाए रखना है तथा फलदार वृक्ष लगाने से प्राकृतिक वनों की जैविक विविधता पर प्रतिकूल प्रभाव पड़ेगा।

Global Tender for Flat Wagons by Container Corporation of India

2595. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Container Corporation of India Limited had floated a global tender for 1500 Bogie Container flat wagons in September, 1994;

(b) if so, the date of opening of the technical bid;

(c) the date of opening of the price bid

(d) whether the Bum Standard Ltd., a PSU had sought deemed export status and if so, whether **on** this account their lowest bid was not considered;

(e) whether the status was not considered for private bidder;

(f) when the number of wagons tendered was changed from 1500 to 1725 and whether all the bidders were informed of this change, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI

SATPAL MAHARAJ):; (a) No, Sir. The global tender was floated in April, 1994.

(b) The technical bid was opened on 15.9.1994.

(c) The price bid was opened on 19.10.1995.

(d) M/s. Burn Standard Company Ltd. (BSCL) had sought deemed export status. However, it is not true that their bid was not considered on this account. The bid document provided that if the bids were submitted after taking into account "deemed export" benefits, then a specific condition of the bid document was to be accepted by the bidder without any reservation and its non-acceptance would render the bid non-responsive. This specific item of the bid document was again brought to the notice of bid ders while inviting 2nd stage financial bids so that condition of a bid becoming non-responsive were crystal clear to all bidders. Despite this. M/s. BSCL gave stipulations in their bid which rendered their bid non-responsive.

(e) The bidders from the private sector also quoted after taking into account deemed export benefit and their bids were conforming to the conditions laid down in the bid document and were treated as responsive bids.

(f) Yes, Sir. The bid document per-mited 15 per cent quantity variation at the time of the award of contract without any change in the price or other terms and conditions. The option of quantity variation was to be exercised at the time of award after the bid evaluation was duly approved by the relevant authorities. The enhanced contracted quantity could be accommodated within the budget. In terms of the bid document it was not necessary to inform other bidders about the variation in the quantity.

Reclamation of Desert Lands in Gujarat and Rajasthan

2596. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gujarat and Rajasthan have large areas of desert which is increasing day-by-day;

(b) whether Government have any plan to use the desert land for agriculture and plantation;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the amount spent in Gujarat and Rajasthan on the above and the area of land reclaimed for the purpose;

(e) whether there is any plan to col-laborate with Israel Government; and

(f) whether Government plan to offer desert land to private agencies?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICUL-TURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISH-RA): (a) The, estimated desert area in Gujarat and Rajasthan is 62,180 sq km and 136 lakh sq km respectively. Ac-; 1 cording to a study it is not increasing.

(b) to (d) A statement is annexed *(see* below).

(e) Yes, Sir, The Department of: Waste Land Development in-collaboration with the State Government has taken steps to take up a pilot project for plantation of Jojoba in Rajasthan and an Executive Programme has been signed in March, 1995.

(f) There is no proposal with the Government of India to offer desert land to private agencies.

Statement

A Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely Desert Development Programme (DDP) under the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment is in operation in the States of Gujarat and Rajasthan to combat de-sertification through sand-dune stablisa-tion, shelter-belt plantation, afforestation, grass land development, soil and moisture conservation and water resources de-velopment.